

## **Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review**

**Lease name: LOCH LINNHE**

**Lease number: PO 230**

### **Fish & Game Report**

As part of the process of Tenure Review Fish & Game councils may provide advice on significant inherent values within the pastoral lease, and the information may be incorporated in the Conservation Resources Report. The advice is part of the information gathered and assessed for the development of a preliminary consultation document.

The report attached is released under the Official Information Act 1982.

**August**

**07**



## Loch Linnhe Crown Pastoral Lease Resource Report

Prepared by the Otago Fish and Game Council

### Introduction

The purpose of this report is to advise the Commissioner of Crown Lands on the sports fish and game values present on the land included in the Loch Linnhe Crown pastoral lease. The lease is being considered for land tenure review and disposal under the provisions of the Crown Pastoral Land Act.

Information for this report has been researched and prepared by Otago Fish and Game Council staff.

The Loch Linnhe pastoral lease straddles the Hector range and is bordered by Lake Wakatipu in the west and the upper catchment of the Nevis River in the east. The lease land comprises of high altitude rolling hill tussock grasslands with shrub lands lower down. The vegetation in the Nevis catchment is noticeably sparse compared to the lake Wakatipu lake faces. All waterways on this property flow into the Kawarau River via Lake Wakatipu or the Nevis River.

Both the Lake Wakatipu and the Nevis River catchment's contain important sports fishery values. The Nevis River is an exceptional backcountry fishery targeted by large numbers of New Zealand and overseas anglers and mentioned in the Water Conservation (Kawarau) Order 1997 for recreational purposes, particularly fishing. The Otago Sports Fish & Game Management Plan similarly identifies the Nevis River as a nationally important wilderness trout fishery. This River retains outstanding wild characteristics. It is not impounded or regulated and does not suffer from water abstraction or agricultural pollution. Water quality remains high and the mountainous tussock valley largely unchanged. As a result anglers fish for trophy brown trout in a magnificent setting, and enjoy a true backcountry fishing experience. The fact that approximately 40% of anglers who visit the Nevis River annually are from overseas highlights that it is a nationally significant fishery. Equally, Lake Wakatipu has been described as the jewel in the crown of Otago's fisheries and attracts many New Zealand resident and overseas anglers annually.

Sports fisheries of this value are maintained by annual recruitment from tributary streams and hence they often have value far exceeding their size. In addition, water quality and quantity is important even in streams that do not contain sports fish as they invariably flow into areas where there are sports fish.

*Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats*

**Otago Region**

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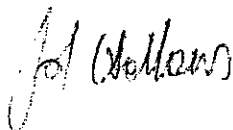
Many of the tributaries flowing into Lake Wakatipu have some spawning value although this value is limited by culverts and migration barriers. The Nevis River and its tributaries, Sproules Creek and Whittens Creek contain sports fish spawning, juvenile recruitment and adult habitat for Brown Trout. Habitat protection in this area is of high importance, particularly in the case of the Nevis River fishery as this is self-sustaining (all recruitment comes from within the catchment) and therefore any loss of habitat could impact on the quality of fishery.

A small number of Paradise Shelducks, Mallard Ducks, Chukor, and California quail inhabit the lease land. The modified flat land is preferred by duck species whilst scrubby relatively unmodified areas are favoured by Quail and Chukor.

### **Recommendations**

1. All marginal strips on the property should become section 24 strips if they do not already have this status.
2. Provisions should be included to allow for hunter, firearms and dog across land designated free-hold to Conservation administered land.
3. Access for Fish & Game staff is provided to areas of free-hold land for sports fish and game bird management purposes

Dated: July 4 2007



John Hollows  
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Otago Fish & Game Council